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Grand Teton National Park News Release

November 16, 2001 For Immediate Release Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs 307/739-3393 01-90

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK INITIATES CLOSURE ON JACKSON LAKE

Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent Steve Iobst announced today that a temporary area closure has gone into effect to protect archeological resources along the lakeshore of Jackson Lake north of Leek's Marina.

Due to low lake levels resulting from two years of drought conditions, rare archeological sites have become exposed. To protect these sensitive resources, a closure area has been established and posted along both the western and eastern shorelines at the north end of Jackson Lake. The east shore signs are located adjacent to the Highway 89/191/287 roadway from Leek's Marina north to the inlet of the Snake River. A similar closure order occurred in 1988 when Jackson Lake reached low levels due to a combination of drought and construction activities on Jackson Lake dam.

The surface waters of Jackson Lake remain open to boating and fishing activities. Boat ramps at Signal Mountain and Leek's Marina are still open for launching; however, conditions are marginal due to low water. Boaters cannot beach their watercraft along any of the exposed shorelines at the north end of the lake.

Rangers will be patrolling the area to provide public information about the closure and to assist visitors with alternative lakeshore access. The temporary area closure will be lifted once adequate winter snowfall occurs to protect these exposed sites.

View a map of the closed area: www.nps.gov/grte/press/closure.jpg

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